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AOC'S CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER PROJECT RECOGNIZED BY WASHINGTON BUILDING CONGRESS WITH ITS 2008 CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS

WASHINGTON — The Office of the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) Capitol Visitor Center project was recognized by the Washington Building Congress with several 2008 Craftsmanship Awards. Teams of skilled tradesmen were recognized for displaying exceptional skill in their fields, including door and hardware fabrication, skylight design and installation, exterior hardscape installation, and stone masonry.

“The Capitol Visitor Center was designed and built to match the Capitol in quality and endurance, and generations of Americans will greatly benefit from all it has to offer,” noted Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers, AIA. “These fine craftsmen can take great pride in their role in helping to complete the largest single expansion of the Capitol Building. For the Washington Building Congress to recognize the Capitol Visitor Center for its superb craftsmanship and quality is a true honor.”

Specifically, the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) project was singled out for the high-quality, professional workmanship throughout the facility by individuals who are “creative, precise, and possess the special skills associated with quality craftsmanship.” These features include the six skylights which allow natural light into the CVC; the custom light fixtures located throughout the CVC and Expansion Spaces that complement the existing fixtures in the Capitol Building; the installation of major hard scape features such as stairs and seat walls, as well as the re-installation of historic elements such as fountains and lanterns on the East Front; and the installation of monumental interior wall stone and marble, and ornamental staircases, doors, and other hardware.

Technical skills of the teams responsible for electrical and fire alarm systems installation, and plaster work were also honored with Craftsmanship Awards.

(MORE)

AOC'S CVC Wins Craftsmanship Awards
April 15, 2008
Page Two

In addition to the 11 awards presented, several of the winners were extended additional honors with the receipt of two of the three "Star Awards" presented to projects demonstrating the highest level of quality and achieving exceptional visual and technical excellence. The CVC project was also received the "Hall of Fame Award" for the masonry work done throughout the facility.

The Washington Building Congress' Craftsmanship Awards Program was created in 1956 to bring public recognition to those people who, because of exceptional workmanship and individual effort, deserve such an honor. Awards are made for a wide range of skills, for elaborate and technical installation of mechanical systems, truly beautiful cabinet and woodwork, artistic painting, and masonry and stone work. Nominees were judged by their industry peers on the basis of creative ingenuity, precision, and quality craftsmanship.

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